

1/10/2007

## **HOUSE APPROVES OBEY MEASURE**

### **TO INCREASE INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT**

WASHINGTON, D.C. –“ The U.S. House of Representatives has approved a measure authored by Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) to create a select intelligence oversight panel intended to strengthen Congressional oversight of the U.S. intelligence community.

The new panel will include members from both the House Intelligence Committee, which authorizes and oversees intelligence programs, and the House Appropriations Committee, which controls the budget for the intelligence community.

“One of the problems noted by the bipartisan 9/11 commission was the lack of proper Congressional oversight of our intelligence community,” Obey said. “This joint panel is intended to solve that problem by allowing effective oversight of both the operations and the budget of our intelligence community while keeping that budget in the proper context of overall national security needs.”

The House also passed H.R.1 to implement the remaining recommendations of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission. Obey supported the measure to increase national security.

“The 9/11 Commission laid out a roadmap of recommended actions to provide for a more secure future for the country,” said Obey, who serves as Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. “Unfortunately, the legislation passed by the last Congress, over my objections, to supposedly implement those recommendations ignored many

important issues.

So today, with the first bill of the new Congress, we addressed those shortcomings.â€

The bill substantially improves homeland security by:

- Â· Increasing the amount of homeland security grant funding provided to high risk locations.
- Â· Creating a stand-alone grant program to improve communications between first responders.

Â· Requiring 100% inspection of air cargo, phased in over the next 3 years.

Â· Requiring 100% scanning of U.S.-bound shipping containers, phased in over the next 5 years.

The bill also improves the U.S. non-proliferation program to help prevent terrorists from acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and increases efforts to reduce the appeal of extremism and promote an agenda of hope in the Muslim world.

#

# #